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11 February 1965

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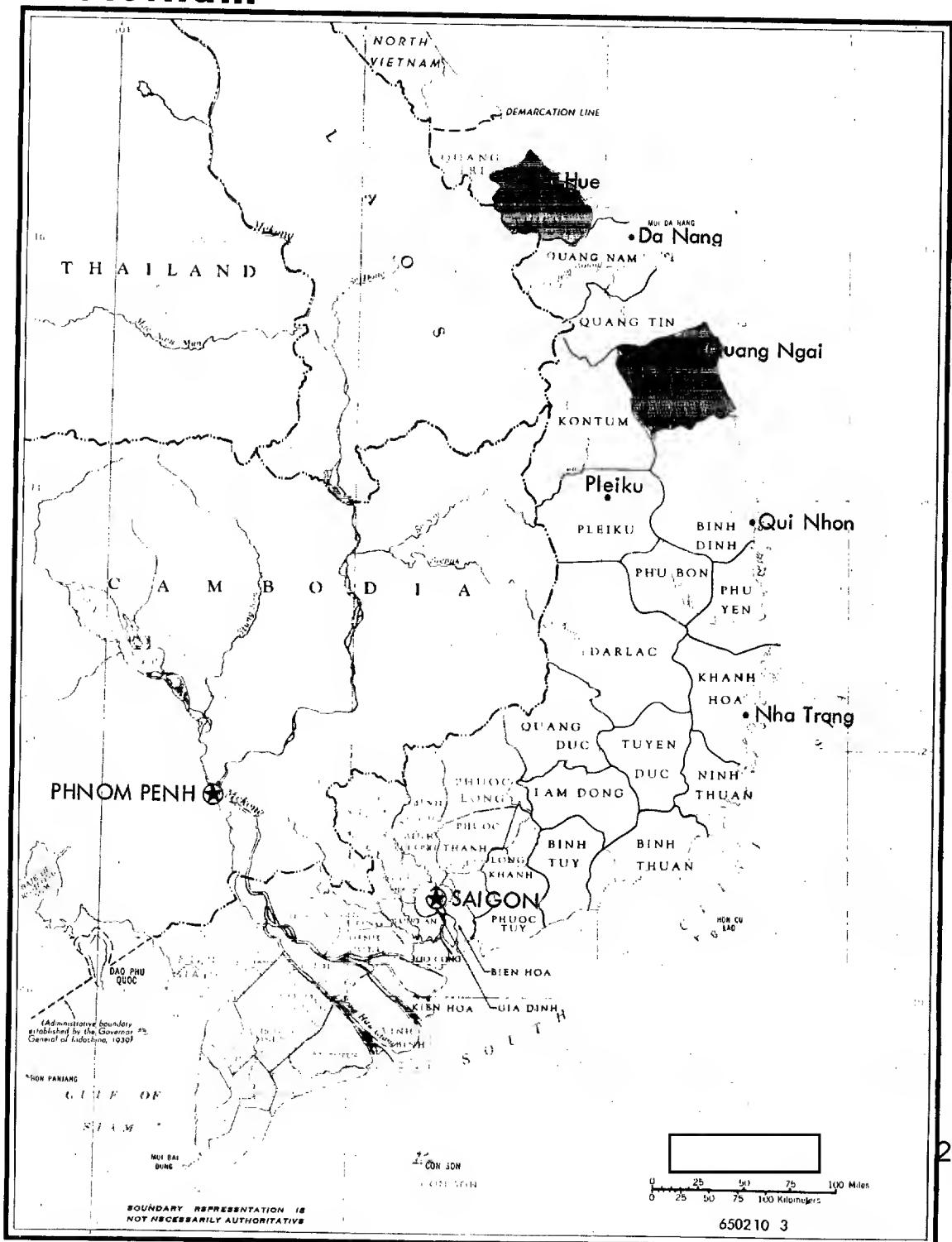
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South Vietnam



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North Vietnam-South Vietnam: The strength of Viet Cong regular forces in South Vietnam continues to increase.

US military authorities in South Vietnam have accepted an additional 1,925 men since the last order of battle change in December 1964. They now hold the total regular force strength at 34,900. The majority of these 1,925 men infiltrated from North Vietnam during the first half of 1964, subsequently forming two new infantry battalions in Quang Ngai Province and strengthening a third battalion in Thua Thien Province.

Captured Communist prisoners indicate that many of these men are ethnic North Vietnamese who were drafted into the regular DRV armed forces specifically for assignment in South Vietnam.

US order of battle for Viet Cong regular force units now shows them divided into 5 regimental headquarters, 50 battalions, 139 independent companies, and 29 separate platoons. Irregular Viet Cong forces are still estimated at 60,000-80,000.

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France: As a follow-up to his press conference last week, De Gaulle is considering inviting the five major powers to meet on the matter of "re-forming" the UN.

De Gaulle plans to discuss the matter in more detail with Foreign Minister Couve de Murville following the latter's return from India tomorrow. As a result, the Foreign Ministry has been obliged to change the position it took earlier with US officials that De Gaulle's comments pertaining to the UN did not foreshadow any immediate policy moves.

A ranking official who has relayed the Foreign Ministry's line expressed as his personal opinion that only a note explaining French views might result. Nevertheless, the issuance of formal invitations for a conference would be a logical extension of De Gaulle's remarks that the major powers, including Communist China, must deal with the problems created by an excessive usurpation of power by the General Assembly.

The conference call would also be, in De Gaulle's view, a step toward reorganizing world councils on the basis of existing power realities.

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